

Considerations for WAP Field Work

OSHA and [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#) recommendations begin with the development or updating of an Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan that will help guide protective actions for both workers and clients during epidemics like COVID-19. Recommendations for plan development can be found [here](#). The following recommendations from OSHA and the U.S. Department of Labor should be considered when you begin the transition back to field work after the suspension is lifted.

Grantee Planning

Consider updating your [Health and Safety](#) plans to include a COVID-19 and other infectious disease deferral condition with a reasonable timeframe (30-120 days) for clients that may be exhibiting symptoms, or exposed to others with an infectious disease, or clients that are concerned for their safety. Include the allowance of additional PPE and other protective measure costs for both crew and client safety. Review relevant [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) Memorandums](#) and ensure your plan is consistent with DOE recommendations. Contact [NASCSP](#) for technical assistance or with questions about developing a plan.

Safety Training

Consider requiring online training on risk assessment, PPE proper use and cleaning prior to re-entry into the field. "COVID-19: Workplace Safety" was developed by [Energy Smart Academy](#) with an OSHA safety trainer. This online training is sponsored by DOE and available at [no cost to the WAP network](#) (Grantees, Subgrantees, Subcontractors, Weatherization Training Centers). It provides detailed guidance on safety precautions, cleaning and disinfecting, and checklists for office and field staff.

Assessing Risk

OSHA has identified [four levels of worker exposure risk](#). Non-medical workers going into the homes of general public are identified by OSHA as moderate or low-level risk. Develop protocols for screening households prior to weatherization work to determine household history and risk level. As recommended above, consider a deferral condition for clients that may be exhibiting symptoms or are at a higher risk of having been exposed to others with COVID-19. Recommended Screening Questions:

1. Has anyone in the household tested positive for COVID-19? If so, how long ago?
2. Is anyone in your household experiencing fever, cough or shortness of breath in the last two weeks?
3. Has anyone in your household been in contact with someone who has had a fever, cough or shortness of breath in the last two weeks?
4. In the past two weeks have you been on a commercial flight or traveled outside of the state?
5. Consider using the COVID-19 self-screening tool to help determine if clients should be serviced or deferred for a period. Check your risk for COVID-19 - <https://c19check.com/start>

WAP Agencies are also allowed to screen their own employees for COVID-19 and may consider implementing regular questionnaires, temperature checks, or other protocols. Consult the CAPLAW [Building Readiness FAQ](#) for more information.

Prepare to Implement Basic Infection Measures:

- Prohibit handshaking, maintain physical distance, at least 6 feet, as often as possible.
- Mandate that sick employees stay home, promote telework options if possible.
- Include routine, daily disinfecting of equipment and tools being used in the field. When choosing cleaning chemicals, consult information in the EPA approved disinfectant labels with claims against viral pathogens. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use of all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, PPE).
- Promote frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Prepare to Implement Changes to Field Work during the transition:

- Screen all field workers daily for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Training and equipping all field workers with PPE and how to properly use it, remove it and clean it to avoid contamination of self and others. Examples of PPE include gloves, goggles, face shields and masks, N95 filtering respirators.
- Provide sanitary wipes to crews that can be used to clean surfaces in client homes both **before** and **after** they are performing work. See the [EPA list](#) of disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- Ensure all vehicles and crew members are equipped with hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Consider prioritizing the completion of all exterior work first, and then address the interior work in the client home. Remember to practice physical distancing.
- Try to reduce the number of crew and clients in the home at the time of interior work, consider asking clients if they would leave the home during the interior work or try to isolate them to one room.
- Consider establishing a policy that crews conducting interior work will wear PPE, this may also help assure clients who are fearful of people entering their home.
- Consider offering face masks to clients to contain respiratory droplets.
- Consider installing a physical barrier, such as a clear sheet of plastic, to isolate a client while interior work is being conducted.
- One driver per vehicle per day, disinfect the drivers controls after use.
- If workers arrive at a site and determine a client is exhibiting respiratory illness, establish a policy that may allow them to defer the home for a period to ensure worker safety.
- Consider developing additional safety protocols for blower door operation:
 - Ensure household members and employees are screened for COVID symptoms before entering home
 - Require clients and workers wear face coverings when running the blower door
 - Remove all workers from the home that are not necessary for the blower door process
 - Consider asking clients if they would wait outside the home and away from the fan while the test is being performed, or request they move to an area of the home away from the flow of air through the fan
 - Stand at a distance away from the fan, out of the direct air path, and use wireless technology for operation if available
 - Disinfect the blower door after each use

Create Inventory Checklist for Field Workers

Is there adequate inventory for the following categories before going into the field?

Face protection such as N95 or equivalent respirators, surgical masks, shields

Gloves

Tyvek Suits

Booties

Paper towels

Hand soap

Cleaners

Client education materials

Client face masks